

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BONN 00460 01 OF 02 101726Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
-----101735Z 125462 /44

O 101710Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4569

AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 00460

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS ACTION IMMEDIATE TO SECDEF
WASHDC AND INFO IMMEDIATE TO UNSMR SHAPE AND CINC EUR
VAIHINGEN.

MILITARY ADDEES TREAT AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE.

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MPOL, NATO, PO, MILI, US, GW

SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE FORCE MODERNIZATION

REFS: (A) STATE 310763 DTG 240140Z DEC 76 (NOTAL)

(B) NATO 0067 DTG 071400Z JAN 77

(C) BONN 00217 DTG 051609Z JAN 77

(D) USNMR SHAPE DTG 072315Z JAN 77

BEGIN SUMMARY: IN ITS REPLY TO THE EMBASSY'S NON-PAPER
CONCERNING PORTUGUESE FORCE MODERNIZATION (REFTEL A),
THE GERMAN DEFENSE MINISTRY (FMOD) HAS INDICATED WILLING-
NESS TO SUPPLY SEVENTEEN M48A2 TANKS PLUS EQUIPMENT FOR
THE ARTILLERY BATTALION. WHILE IT HAD NOT
AS YET RECEIVED THE EQUIPMENT REQUEST PROVIDED BY
CATARINO (REFTEL B), THE FMOD WILL PROBABLY BE SATISFIED

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BONN 00460 01 OF 02 101726Z

NOW THAT ALL CONCERNED HAVE ONE AND THE SAME LIST. END
SUMMARY.

1. THE GERMAN DEFENSE MINISTRY HAS GIVEN US FURTHER
INFORMATION ABOUT THE GERMAN PAPER ON PORTUGUESE FORCE
MODERNIZATION WHICH HAS BEEN APPROVED BY MINISTERS LEBER
AND GENSCHER (REFTEL C). IT SHOWS A POSITIVE FRG VIEW

TOWARDS PROVIDING SEVENTEEN M48A2 TANKS TO THE PORTUGUESE ARMY DURING 1977. THESE TANKS HAVE THE U.S. COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT BUT WOULD REQUIRE UPGRADING OF ENGINE AND GUN. THE FRG POSITION REMAINS THAT THE U.S. SHOULD MAKE AND PAY FOR THOSE MODIFICATIONS WHICH ARE NECESSARY TO UPGRADE THE TANK TO AN M48A5. AS FAR AS OTHER MAJOR ITEMS ARE CONCERNED, THE FRG IS PREPARED TO PROVIDE ARTILLERY EQUIPMENT FOR THE BATTALION. OUR FMOD SOURCE DID NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT 155MM HOWITZERS HAD NOT BEEN ON EQUIPMENT LISTS WHICH HAD BEEN UNDER DISCUSSION RECENTLY.

2. AS OF JANUARY 10, THE GERMAN DEFENSE MINISTRY STILL HAD NOT RECEIVED THE EQUIPMENT LIST PROVIDED TO ITS DELEGATION TO NATO BY FIRST SECRETARY CATARINO OF THE PORTUGUESE DELEGATION (REF B). THUS, IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER THE FRG CONSIDERS THIS TO SATISFY THE GERMAN REQUIREMENT FOR AN OFFICIAL PORTUGUESE REQUEST FOR A SPECIFIC LIST OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT. HOWEVER, THE DEFENSE MINISTRY OFFICIAL WITH WHOM WE SPOKE INDICATED THAT THE FRG CONCERN WAS NOT OVER PROTOCOL BUT RATHER TO INSURE THAT EVERYONE WAS DEALING WITH THE SAME LIST OF EQUIPMENT. THUS, HE FELT THAT FRG CONCERNS IN THIS AREA HAD PROBABLY BEEN MET.

3. AS NOTE REFTTEL B, THE FRG WISHES TO DISCUSS PORTUGUESE FORCE MODERNIZATION BILATERALLY WITH THE U.S. IN BRUSSELS. IT FEELS THAT IT WOULD BE MOST APPROPRIATE IF THE U.S. AND FRG REPS ON THE AD HOC GROUP SHOULD LEAD
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 BONN 00460 01 OF 02 101726Z

OUR RESPECTIVE DELEGATIONS WHO WOULD BE ASSISTED BY EXPERT ADVICE FROM CAPITALS AS REQUIRED. ONCE THE U.S. AND FRG HAD AGREED AS TO OUR RESPECTIVE CONTRIBUTIONS, THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE AD HOC GROUP SHOULD BE BROUGHT INTO THE PICTURE.

4. AS FAR AS THE OTHER SPECIFIC QUESTIONS POSED IN THE U.S. NON-PAPER (REFTEL A) ARE CONCERNED, THE FRG'S PRELIMINARY REACTION IS AS FOLLOWS:

THE G PROPOSES TO PROVIDE TRAINING ASSISTANCE FOR WHATEVER UNITS ARE EQUIPPED WITH GERMAN WEAPONS: I.E., THE ARTILLERY BATTALION. WHO SHOULD PROVIDE TRAINING FOR THE TANK COMPANY IS A QUESTION WHICH THE FRG WISHES TO DISCUSS WITH THE U.S. SINCE BOTH NATIONS WILL PROBABLY BE INVOLVED IN PROVIDING THE TANKS.

THE FRG HAS NO OBJECTION TO THE SUGGESTIONS CON-

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEES.

SECRET

NNN

SECRET

PAGE 01 BONN 00460 02 OF 02 101729Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
-----101735Z 125486 /44

O 101710Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4570

AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 00460

EXDIS

TAINED IN THE U.S. NON-PAPER CONCERNING WHAT EQUIPMENT
OTHER NATO ALLIES MIGHT BE ASKED TO SUPPLY TO THE
PORTUGUESE MILITARY. HOWEVER, ITS OWN POSITION HAS NOT
BEEN WORKED OUT IN THIS KIND OF DETAIL. IN GENERAL, ITS
POSITION REMAINS THAT AS MANY ALLIES AS POSSIBLE SHOULD
BE ASKED TO CONTRIBUTE IN ORDER TO EMPHASIZE THAT THIS
IS A PROGRAM OF NATO ASSISTANCE. IN ORDER TO FURTHER
THIS GOAL, THE FRG HATAKEN. THIS POSITION OFTEN
DURING BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES.

AS FAR AS ASSISTANCE TO THE PORTUGUESE NAVY IS CON-
CERNED, THE FRG AGREES WITH SACEUR THAT PRIORITY
SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE BRIGADE AND ITS ASSOCIATED AIR
ELEMENTS RATHER THAN ASSISTING THE PORTUGUESE NAVY.
GIVEN THE DIFFERENCE IN THE ROLE OF THE GERMAN NAVY AND
THAT OF THE PORTUGUESE, THE FRG HAS NO REPEAT NO PRESENT
INTENTION OF PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO THE PORTUGUESE IN
THE NAVAL FIELD.

THE FRG HAS NO FIRM POSITION CONCERNING ASSIS-
TANCE TO THE PORTUGUESE IN ESTABLISHING VIABLE LOGISTICS,
MAINTENANCE AND SUPPLY SYSTEMS. IT EXPECTS THAT THE U.S.
AND FRG CHIEFS OF THE ARMY SURVEY TEAMS WHICH VISITED
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BONN 00460 02 OF 02 101729Z

PORTUGAL THIS SUMMER WILL BE INVITED BACK TO PORTUGAL AT THE END OF JANUARY. AT THAT TIME, THE PORTUGUESE WILL PRESUMABLY REPLY TO THE SUGGESTIONS LEFT BY OUR SURVEY TEAMS. IN PRINCIPAL, THE FRG IS PREPARED TO ASSIST. HOWEVER, ANY SUCH PROGRAM SHOULD BE CAREFULLY COORDINATED BY THE U.S. AND FRG AND NOT INVOLVE MANY OTHER DONOR NATIONS IN ORDER TO AVOID LEAVING PORTUGAL WITH A HYBRID LOGISTICS SYSTEM. THE FRG IS ALSO VERY CONCERNED LEST PORTUGUESE SENSITIVITIES BE BRUISED. THUS, IT FEELS IT WOULD BE MUCH BETTER IF THE PORTUGUESE WERE TO REQUEST ASSISTANCE IN THIS FIELD.

THE SAME CONCERN FOR PORTUGUESE SENSITIVITIES IS APPARENT IN THE FRG'S CONSIDERATION OF A PROGRAM OF PROVIDING MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE TO THE PORTUGUESE ARMED FORCES: E.G., HELP IN ESTABLISHING A GENERAL STAFF. WHILE THE FRG SEES THE NECESSITY FOR PROVIDING THE PORTUGUESE WITH SUCH ASSISTANCE, IT FEARS THAT SOME PORTUGUESE ELEMENTS COULD REACT BADLY TO WHAT MIGHT BE CONSIDERED AS "OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE." THUS, THE FRG IS AWAITING A SPECIFIC PORTUGUESE REQUEST BEFORE CONSIDERING SUCH A PROGRAM AND WISHES TO AVOID ANY IMPRESSION OF FORCING THIS KIND OF ASSISTANCE UPON THE GOP.

5. THE NEXT STEP FOR THE FRG IS TO PREPARE AN INTER-MINISTERIAL (FMOD, FOREIGN OFFICE AND MINISTRY OF FINANCE) PAPER ON MILITARY AID TO PORTUGAL. THIS PAPER MUST BE APPROVED BY CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT BY THE END OF JANUARY IN ORDER FOR SUCH AN AID PACKAGE TO BE INCLUDED IN THIS YEAR'S BUDGET. OUR FMOD SOURCE FELT THERE WOULD BE NO PROBLEM IN MEETING THIS DEADLINE.

6. CONCLUSION. WE VIEW THESE DEVELOPMENTS AS BOTH POSITIVE AND GOING SOME WAY IN MEETING GENERAL HAIG'S CONCERNS EXPRESSED IN REFTEL C. LIKE GENERAL HAIG, WE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 BONN 00460 02 OF 02 101729Z

ARE CONCERNED THAT THE PORTUGUESE AID PROGRAM IS BEING DEVELOPED ON A PIECEMEAL BASIS. NOT ONLY MIGHT THIS ERODE FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR THE BRIGADE, BUT IT ALSO COULD LEAD TO A SITUATION WHERE THE GERMAN CONTRIBUTION WAS SO SMALL AS PARTIALLY TO NEGATE THE CONCEPT OF A NATO (AS OPPOSED TO UNILATERAL U.S.) MILITARY AID PROGRAM.
STOESSEL

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY BUILDUP, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, MILITARY TRAINING, ARMED FORCES, FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS, TANKS (COMBAT VEHICLES)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BONN00460
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770009-0166
Format: TEL
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770168/aaaachda.tel
Line Count: 222
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: fcfc6db-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 STATE 310763, 77 NATO BRUSSELS 67, 77 BONN 217
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3635578
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PORTUGUESE FORCE MODERNIZATION
TAGS: MASS, MPOL, MILI, PO, US, GE, NATO
To: STATE LISBON
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fcfc6db-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009